

voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Record vote read. See page 926 of the Legislative Journal.) 43 ayes, 0 nays, 6 excused and not voting, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: LB 412 passes. Before we proceed, I would like to call the senators' attention to the south balcony. Special guests today of Senator Pedersen are juniors and seniors from Elkhorn High School in Elkhorn, Nebraska and their teachers. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. We will now return to LB 205 to Final Reading.

CLERK: Madam President, I have a motion on the desk. Senator Rasmussen would move to return the bill for a specific amendment. AMO792, Senator. (The Rasmussen amendment appears on pages 926-28 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the body, I became aware of the fact that another piece of legislation, LB 531, that was introduced from the Health and Human Services Committee relates to the very same section in article of law as 205 does, and it might be worth looking at in terms of efficiency to put both of these pieces of legislation in at the same time. I would like to share with you what this is all about and if there are great concerns and you think it should not be done today, that would be fine, I would withdraw the amendment and go ahead and proceed with the Final Reading of 205. I have passed out a copy of the amendment to everyone. And, basically, what it is all about, it is allowing for communication agreements or open adoption agreements for those children who are state wards. It is important to recognize this only applies to children who are state wards. And both the Department of Social Services and the Foster Care Review Board are highly supportive of doing this. And the reason is that a study done by the Foster Care Review Board and others found that we have a number of children who appear to be stuck in the system, mainly because they are a little bit older in age and they have formed some attachment with their biological parents, but their biological parents no longer are able to parent them adequately and, in fact, these children are in foster care placement and have foster care parents who are interested in